# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY



# **PCT**

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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Applicant's or agent's file reference P15748	FOR FURTHER ACTION	RTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)							
International application No.	International filing date (day/	ling date (day/month/year) Priority date (day/month							
PCT/EP2003/003937	15 April 2003 (15.04	4.2003)	15 April 2002 (15.04.2002)						
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H01L 21/00									
Applicant  ERS ELECTRONIC GMBH									
1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.									
2. This REPORT consists of a total of	5 sheets, including	ng this cover sh	ieet.						
This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).  These annexes consist of a total of sheets.									
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:									
I Basis of the report									
II Priority	II Priority								
III Non-establishment	III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability								
IV Lack of unity of inve									
Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement									
VI Certain documents cited									
VII Certain defects in the	VII Certain defects in the international application								
VIII Certain observations on the international application									
Date of submission of the demand	77. 6								
•		completion of	this report						
13 November 2003 (13.11.	2003)	19 Jan	uary 2004 (19.01.2004)						
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authoriz	ed officer							
Facsimile No.	Telephon	ıa Na							
Form DOVE/TOTAL 1400 (	Тогорион								

Translation



International application No.
PCT/EP2003/003937

I. Basis	of the	e report			•
1. This under	report	has been drawn of the last to	on the basis of in this report a	(Replacement sheens "originally filed"	ets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation " and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.):
		the international	application as	s originally filed.	•
	$\boxtimes$	the description,	pages	1-14	, as originally filed,
			pages		, filed with the demand,
			pages		, filed with the letter of,
í L			pages		, filed with the letter of
	$\boxtimes$	the claims,	Nos	1-20	, as originally filed,
	لاحينا		Nos.		, as amended under Article 19,
			Nos.		, filed with the demand,
			Nos.		, filed with the letter of,
			Nos.		, filed with the letter of
	$\boxtimes$	the drawings,	sheets/fig	1/5-5/5	, as originally filed,
					, filed with the demand,
			sheets/fig _		, filed with the letter of,
					, filed with the letter of
2. The a	mendı	ments have resulte	ed in the cance	ellation of:	
		the description,	pages		<u>.</u>
		the claims,			
		the drawings,			
					<b>,</b>
3.	This to go	report has been es beyond the discle	stablished as if	f (some of) the ar	mendments had not been made, since they have been considered ne Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
			, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	an manana m	te Supplementat Dox (Rule 70.2(6)).
4. Additi	ional c	observations, if ne	cessary:		
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Internal al application No.

PCT/EP 03/03937

V. R	easoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability
ci	tations and explanations supporting such statement

Statement	•		
Novelty (N)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-20	YES
	Claims		NO

#### 2. Citations and explanations

This report makes reference to the following documents:

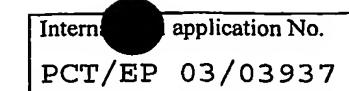
- D1: US-A-6 099 643 (OHTANI MASAMI ET AL) 8 August 2000 (2000-08-08)
- D2: US-A-5 885 353 (DAVIS SHAWN ET AL) 23 March 1999 (1999-03-23)
- D3: DE 202 05 949 U (ERS ELECTRONIC GMBH) 22 August 2002 (2002-08-22)

Document D1 is considered to constitute the prior art closest to the subject matter of claims 1-20 and discloses (the references in parentheses are to that document): a device and a method for conditioning semiconductor substrates.

The subject matter of claims 1-20 therefore differs from the known subject matter in that the tempering fluid is recycled and used to condition the atmosphere of the surrounding space.

The problem addressed by the present invention can thus be considered to be that of achieving a more efficient conditioning of wafers.

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D1 describes a conditioning device but not the passing of a fluid through a receiving system, nor the tempering of the surrounding space with the same.

D2 likewise describes a conditioning arrangement, but the wafer is held therein on the chuck by a vacuum; although an air stream is produced thereby, the fluid stream is not re-used to condition the surrounding space.

The contents of claims 1-20 are therefore novel and inventive in relation to the cited prior art in D1 and D2.

Certain published documents (PCT Rule 70.10):

D3, published on 26 September 2002, relates to a registered design by the same applicant and having the same contents. D3 could become relevant in a later phase.